



State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE AND REMEDIATION
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5/003/035

FAX COVER SHEET

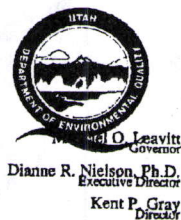
To: Lynn Kunzler
Agency/Firm: DERR
FAX Number: 359-3940
Date: 7-8-98
RE: VIPONT MINE, Box Elder County
From: Liz Geomans
☐ Urgent ☒ For Review ☐ Please Comment ☐ Please Reply
☐ As Requested ☒ Pages to Follow

Comments: _____

Lynn, for your files.

Liz

(Thanks for your help.)



Dianne R. Nielson, Ph.D.
Executive Director
Kent P. Gray
Director

State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
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ERRC-315-98

July 2, 1998

Mr. Jerry Stacey
Vice President Operations
Royal Silver Mines, Inc.
N 10220 Nevada St., Ste. 270
Spokane, Washington 99218

RE: VIPONT MINE

Dear Mr. Stacey:

We have been advised that Royal Silver Mines, Inc., is the owner and operator of the Vipont Mine located in Box Elder County, Utah. Recently the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) asked us to look into the need for the emergency removal of possible hazardous chemicals and explosives at the Vipont Mine.

In September of 1994, Bruce Hagans, an employee with the Utah Department of Environmental Quality, Division of Environmental Response and Remediation (DERR), performed a CERCLA Site Inspection at the Vipont Mine and noted some concerns about site safety. One of Mr. Hagans' concerns was the on-site presence of dynamite or blasting caps and two plastic 55 gallon drums labeled phosphoric acid (75%), the latter of which were exposed to the elements. In November of 1994 Mr. Hagans was informed by the mine owner, Thomas Miller, that the two drums had been moved inside a locked quonset hut on-site. Mr. Miller also reported the dynamite/blasting caps had been locked up on-site and were inaccessible to unauthorized persons. In December 1994, Mr. Hagans expressed his concerns to the U.S. Mine, Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) regarding the chemicals and dynamite/blasting caps on the inactive Vipont Mine site. Mr. Miller assured MSHA by telephone in January 1995 that any dynamite stored on the mine property would be removed from the premises.

We are interested in determining if the dynamite has been removed from the site, and whether any hazardous chemicals are still on-site, secure, and inaccessible to the public. We would appreciate your prompt response to this inquiry.

Sincerely,

J. Steven Thiriot, Manager
Site Assessment Section
Division of Environmental Response and Remediation

JST/EY/dc

cc: Johanna Miller, U. S. EPA, Region VIII
Joel Hoyt, Environmental Health Director, Bear River Health Department